

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State 8/10/78

TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-14

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00  
DOOE-00 PM-05 K-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
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BUENOS AIRES 6232

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, HR, AR  
SUBJECT: DERIAN TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

1. PRENSA, CLARIN AND BUENOS AIRES HERALD CARRIED PROMINENTLY UPI REPORT OF TESTIMONY BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATRICIA DERIAN BEFORE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, SAYING DERIAN "CHARGED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WITH 'SYSTEMATIC TORTURES' AND 'SUMMARY EXECUTIONS,' AND CLAIMED THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT SIGNS THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA IS IMPROVING."
2. "IN TESTIMONY BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MISS DERIAN DECLARED THAT SO MUCH EVIDENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA HAS ACCUMULATED THAT TO ARGUE ABOUT IT WOULD BE A 'WASTE OF TIME'."
3. ACCORDING TO UPI DERIAN ALSO SAID THE GOA HAS FAILED TO CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENT TO INVITE THE IAHRC TO VISIT ARGENTINA AND SAID ARGENTINA HAS A VERY SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM.
4. HERALD HEADLINED "HARSH STATEMENT ON ARGENTINA IN THE U.S.," AND PRENSA "ACCUSATION AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT." IN AN UNUSUAL MOVE, PRENSA COLUMNIST MAINFRED SCHONFELD STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE REPORTED DERIAN REMARKS IN WHAT WE EXPECT WILL BE THE FIRST OF A NUMBER OF EDITORIAL ATTACKS AGAINST THE U.S. BESIDE THE DERIAN STORY IN LA PRENSA WAS A UPI PHOTO OF A PHILADELPHIA COPY PUSHING HIS FOOT DOWN ON THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE MOVE GROUP ARRESTED TITLED "REPRESSION AGAINST EXTREMISTS IN THE U.S."
5. WE RECEIVED THE WIRELESS FILE TEXT OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AND USINFO 092045Z BRIEF REPORT ON SOME OF HER TESTIMONY. HOWEVER, THE LATTER DOES NOT CONTAIN THE QUOTE THAT UPI FEATURED. WE HAVE ASKED ICA TO PROVIDE IF AVAILABLE THE VERBATIM TESTIMONY ON ARGENTINA ASAP.
6. COMMENT: IN THE ALREADY OVERHEATED ATMOSPHERE I BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT EVEN SHARPER GOA AND PUBLIC REACTIONS TO THE DERIAN REMARKS THAN WE HAD AFTER THE EXIM BANK REFUSAL OF CREDITS TO ALLIS CHALMERS WHICH WAS PERCEIVED HERE AS A PUBLIC AND FORMAL ACCUSATION BY THE USG OF ARGENTINA. THIS IS THE SECOND BOMBHELL WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD. I ATTENDED A RECEPTION THIS MORNING SPONSORED BY THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE AT NEWBERRY (AEROPARQUE). I WAS THE ONLY AMBASSADOR AND ALSO ONLY U.S. EMBASSY STAFF PERSON INVITED. I FELT AS THOUGH I WAS WALKING INTO PROVERBIAL LION'S DEN. IMMEDIATE REFERENCE WAS MADE TO PAT-DERIAN'S ALLEGED STATEMENTS. GREAT CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT A TOTAL DETERIORATION IN USG-GOA RELATIONS. THE ARGENTINE CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED IN A TACTFUL AND

COURTEOUS MANNER AND NOT IN ANGER, AS I HAD ANTICIPATED. I DO ANTICIPATE THAT WHEN THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS BETTER DIGESTED ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOSE.

7. MY "GUT REACTION" IS I MAY BE CALLED IN AGAIN BY THE FORMIN AS TO THE SOURCE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S INFORMATION ON SYSTEMATIC TORTURE AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS. I FEAR GOA'S ASSUMPTION IS INFO CAME FROM THIS EMBASSY. GOA MAY WELL DEMAND THAT USG SUPPORT ITS PUBLIC ACCUSATION WITH EVIDENCE.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON LINE I MIGHT TAKE WITH GOA.

CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S2000000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade toDate ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

Provide testimony

Get transcript

(Jann Cook)

part of der process  
required under  
oathwe convey h  
Govt info prot  
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public release

Review of HHS-  
2500 der app

other sources

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